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NEWS RELEASE

April 23, 2012

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Environment Department Issues “Water Advisory” for the Village of Columbus

(Santa Fe, N.M.) –The New Mexico Environment Department’s (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has issued a “water advisory” for the Village of Columbus effective immediately, April 23, 2012.

The Village of Columbus water system consumers are advised that the Village will be temporarily providing water that will be disinfected, but not treated by reverse osmosis. Without reverse osmosis treatment, water temporarily provided by the Village of Columbus water system could contain elevated levels of fluoride, gross alpha, and arsenic above acceptable standards.

These contaminants DO NOT pose an immediate threat to public health. Regular consumers of the water system DO NOT need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. Regular consumers are also advised NOT to boil water, as such treatment is ineffective at reducing levels of fluoride, gross alpha and arsenic. However, consumers are advised that if they have specific health concerns, they should consult their doctor to determine if alternative (e.g., bottled) water should be used because of their specific medical condition, such as a compromised immune system.

The Village has been temporarily forced to use water not treated by reverse osmosis due to an electrical failure within the Village’s treatment facility. The NMED Drinking Water Bureau will provide technical assistance to the Village of Columbus water system throughout their repair work at their treatment facility. The Village of Columbus will test the water during the outage. Water will also be tested once the treatment facility is restored and regular service resumes. The Drinking Water Bureau is in consultation with the Village of Columbus to try to get an estimate on when regular service will resume.

The Village of Columbus is located approximately 30 miles south of Deming, New Mexico. NMED requires that the Village of Columbus notify water consumers of the advisory. This advisory only applies to drinking water for the Village of Columbus water system customers and

does not extend to water users of other surrounding water systems. The Village of Columbus water system serves the majority of residents in the Village of Columbus.

For more information, call NMED Communications Director Jim Winchester at (505) 231-8800 or Ray Melendrez, District 3 Drinking Water Bureau Manager, Las Cruces Office at (575) 647-7955.

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